In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 3, 4, 8-11, 13, 14, 18-21 and 28-30, and please cancel claims 2 and 12, as indicated below.

1. (Currently amended) A <u>computer-implemented</u> method, comprising:

<u>a calendar application</u> storing schedule information corresponding to a given user, wherein said schedule information is indicative of an activity status of said given user at [[a]] <u>one or more</u> given time<u>s</u>;

querying <u>said calendar application for</u> said schedule information; [[and]]

<u>determining for each given time whether a current presence state specific to an instant messenger client corresponds to said activity status indicated by said schedule information; and</u>

<u>in response to determining that the</u> [[if a]] current presence state [[of an]] <u>specific to the</u> instant messenger <u>client</u> does not correspond to said activity status indicated by said schedule information, <u>automatically</u> assigning <u>and storing</u> a different presence state that corresponds to said activity status ~~in response to said querying~~, wherein said current presence state and said different presence state each correspond to said given user.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The method as recited in claim [[2]] <u>1</u>, wherein said calendar application is compliant with the Internet Calendaring and Scheduling Core Object Specification standard (RFC 2445).

4. (Currently amended) The method as recited in claim [[2]] 1, wherein querying said schedule information comprises accessing said calendar application via a uniform resource locator (URL).

5. (Original)   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein assigning a different presence state comprises transitioning said current presence state to an engaged state in response to detecting a engaged activity status of said given user.

6. (Original)   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein assigning a different presence state comprises transitioning said current presence state to an online state in response to detecting an available activity status of said given user.

7. (Original)   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein assigning a different presence state comprises transitioning said current presence state to a state determined by said schedule information.

8. (Currently amended) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

detecting a computer system activity level indicative of computer system activity;

determining whether said activity level exceeds an activity threshold in response to said detecting; and

transitioning [[a]] the presence state [[of]] specific to said instant messenger client to a busy state in response to determining that said activity level exceeds said activity threshold, wherein said presence state corresponds to [[a]] said given user.

9. (Currently amended) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

receiving an instant messaging operation directed to [[a]] said given user, wherein said given user is not offline;

determining [[a]] the presence state [[of]] specific to said instant messenger client in response to receiving said instant messaging operation; and

selectively processing said instant messaging operation dependent upon said presence state in response to said determining.

10. (Currently amended) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

storing an instant messaging operation associated with a given presence state of said instant messenger client, wherein said given presence state corresponds to [[a]] the given user;

detecting a transition to said given presence state subsequent to said storing; and

performing said instant messaging operation in response to said detecting.

11. (Currently amended) A computer-accessible storage medium, comprising program instructions, wherein the program instructions are computer-executable to:

query a calendar application that stores schedule information corresponding to a given user, wherein said schedule information is indicative of an activity status of said given user at [[a]] one or more given times;

query said schedule information; and

determine for each given time whether a current presence state specific to an
instant messenger client corresponds to said activity status indicated by
said schedule information; and

in response to determining that the [[if a]] current presence state [[of an]] specific
to the instant messenger client does not correspond to said activity status
indicated by said schedule information, automatically assign and store a
different presence state that corresponds to said activity status in response
to said querying, wherein said current presence state and said different
presence state each correspond to said given user.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim
[[12]] 11, wherein said calendar application is compliant with the Internet Calendaring
and Scheduling Core Object Specification standard (RFC 2445).

14. (Currently amended) The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim
[[12]] 11, wherein querying said schedule information comprises accessing said calendar
application via a uniform resource locator (URL).

15. (Original) The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 11, wherein
assigning a different presence state comprises transitioning said current presence state to
an engaged state in response to detecting an engaged activity status of said given user.

16. (Original) The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 11, wherein
assigning a different presence state comprises transitioning said current presence state to
an online state in response to detecting an available activity status of said given user.

17. (Original) The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 11, wherein assigning a different presence state comprises transitioning said current presence state to a state determined by said schedule information.

18. (Currently amended) The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 11, wherein said program instructions are further computer-executable to:

detect a computer system activity level indicative of computer system activity;

determine whether said activity level exceeds an activity threshold in response to said detecting; and

transition [[a]] the presence state [[of]] specific to said instant messenger client to a busy state in response to determining that said activity level exceeds said activity threshold, wherein said presence state corresponds to [[a]] the given user.

19. (Currently amended) The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 11, wherein said program instructions are further computer-executable to:

receive an instant messaging operation directed to [[a]] said given user, wherein said given user is not offline;

determine [[a]] the presence state [[of]] specific to said instant messenger client in response to receiving said instant messaging operation; and

selectively process said instant messaging operation dependent upon said presence state in response to said determining.

20. (Currently amended) The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 11, wherein said program instructions are further computer-executable to:

store an instant messaging operation associated with a given presence state of said

instant messenger <u>client</u>, wherein said given presence state corresponds to

[[a]] <u>the</u> given user;

detect a transition to said given presence state subsequent to said storing; and

perform said instant messaging operation in response to said detecting.

21. (Currently amended) A system, comprising:

a computer system;

<u>computer-accessible storage comprising program instruction for</u> an instant

messenger software module configured to execute on said computer

system; and

<u>computer-accessible storage comprising program instruction for</u> a calendar

application software module <u>computer-executable</u> <s>configured</s> to store

schedule information corresponding to a given user, wherein said schedule

information is indicative of an activity status of said given user at [[a]] <u>one</u>

<u>or more</u> given time<u>s</u>, and further <u>computer-executable</u> <s>configured</s> to

respond to queries of said schedule information from said instant

messenger software module;

wherein said instant messenger software module is further configured to:

query said schedule information; and

determine for each given time whether a current presence state specific to the instant messenger software module corresponds to said activity status indicated by said schedule information; and

in response to determining that the [[if a]] current presence state [[of]] specific to said instant messenger software module does not correspond to said activity status indicated by said schedule information, automatically assign and store a different presence state that corresponds to said activity status in response to said querying, wherein said current presence state and said different presence state each correspond to said given user.

22. (Original) The system as recited in claim 21, wherein said calendar application software module and said instant messenger software module are integrated into a common software module.

23. (Original) The system as recited in claim 21, wherein said calendar application software module is compliant with the Internet Calendaring and Scheduling Core Object Specification standard (RFC 2445).

24. (Original) The system as recited in claim 21, wherein said instant messenger software module is further configured to access said calendar application software module via a uniform resource locator (URL).

25. (Original) The system as recited in claim 21, wherein assigning a different presence state comprises transitioning said current presence state to an engaged state in response to detecting an engaged activity status of said given user.

26. (Original) The system as recited in claim 21, wherein assigning a different presence state comprises transitioning said current presence state to an online state in response to detecting an available activity status of said given user.

27. (Original) The system as recited in claim 21, wherein assigning a different presence state comprises transitioning said current presence state to a state determined by said schedule information.

28. (Currently amended) The system as recited in claim 21, wherein said instant messenger software module is further configured to:

detect a computer system activity level indicative of computer system activity;

determine whether said activity level exceeds an activity threshold in response to said detecting; and

transition [[a]] the presence state [[of]] specific to said instant messenger software module to a busy state in response to determining that said activity level exceeds said activity threshold, wherein said presence state corresponds to a given user.

29. (Currently amended) The system as recited in claim 21, wherein said instant messenger software module is further configured to:

receive an instant messaging operation directed to [[a]] said given user, wherein said given user is not offline;

determine [[a]] the presence state [[of]] specific to said instant messenger software module in response to receiving said instant messaging operation; and

selectively process said instant messaging operation dependent upon said presence state in response to said determining.

30. (Currently amended) The system as recited in claim 21, wherein said instant messenger software module is further configured to:

> store an instant messaging operation associated with a given presence state of said instant messenger software module, wherein said given presence state corresponds to [[a]] said given user;

> detect a transition to said given presence state subsequent to said storing; and

> perform said instant messaging operation in response to said detecting.